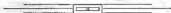


*"Just a Minute  
with  
The Winnipeg Grain Exchange"*



A Series of Radio Broadcasts

Made by

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange

January 2nd to April 30th,

1947

# NO CHANCE FOR ARGUMENT



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## *"Just a Minute with The Winnipeg Grain Exchange"*

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On this the second day of the New Year, 1947, the four hundred and sixty four members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange extend to all listeners greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, with the hope that it will bring to farmers of Western Canada a full return for their efforts and that they may receive full world's market value for their wheat, their feed grains and their flax. Without doubt they will get it for their rye crop.

The war is over, and the farmer should continue no longer, as in the war years, to bear more than his share of the sacrifice.

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So that farmers of Western Canada and business people generally may know the truth about the position of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange in relation to the Canadian Wheat Board, there will be stated daily for the next four broadcasts the basic beliefs of Exchange members.

(1) They believe in a floor price for wheat. If other industries and other citizens are to be subsidized by tariffs and guarantees, it is only right and fair that agriculture should be so protected.

(2) They believe in a Canadian Wheat Board whose task it shall be to administer the floor price and pay that price as and when necessary. But the farmer should retain the choice of selling his grain to whomsoever he may wish, or of delivering that grain to the Board. No matter what others may say, others with axes to grind, that is the position taken by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

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Yesterday you were told of two basic beliefs of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. They were (1) belief in a floor price for wheat, and (2) belief in a Canadian Wheat Board to administer the floor price, but with the farmer retaining the inherent right to sell his grain elsewhere if he chooses.

Here are further fundamental beliefs of the Exchange members.

(3) They believe in the public virtue and private stimulus of freedom of enterprise, knowing that their customers, the farmers, are as a class true free traders.

(4) They believe in free competitive markets as the best way to re-organize and conduct international relationships.

(5) They believe that every farmer should be free to sell his grain to whom he chooses, when he chooses, and at the best price he can get.

In our broadcast of yesterday the basic beliefs of Grain Exchange members were stated:

It was then said that the Exchange believes in a floor price for wheat; believes in a Canadian Wheat Board, with the farmer having the choice of selling elsewhere if he wishes to do so, or of delivering to the Board; believes in free enterprise; believes in free competitive markets, and that the farmer should be free to sell his grain to whom he chooses and when, and at the best price obtainable.

There are several other important beliefs to which they subscribe:

(6) They are unalterably opposed to all monopolies, with all the compulsions they impose, whether operated by governments, by co-operatives, or by private interests.

(7) They believe that the farmer is capable of deciding for himself what he wishes to grow and how much, without restriction or direction.

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We repeat our belief in a floor price, in a Canadian Wheat Board to administer that price, with the farmer having the right to sell elsewhere or to deliver to the Board.

There is another belief which may surprise some of you since you have been led to believe otherwise. They believe that co-operatives and similar organizations may render a valuable service so long as they remain part of a free competitive marketing system, and they believe that a price resulting from the net judgment of thousands of buyers and sellers is bound to be more accurate than the decision of any small group of men, even if they are self-styled grain experts, no matter how good their qualifications may be.

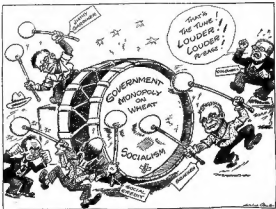
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Many things have been said about the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, most of them untrue. Most of the people who have a lot to say about it have never entered the doors of the Grain Exchange Building, nor have they been visitors to the trading room during a trading session, nor have they made a real effort to understand this widely diversified technical business.

There are those who have left the impression that the Co-operatives have shunned this Grain Exchange like a plague, and have refused to have anything to do with its trading methods.

The very opposite is the truth. The Co-operatives have been members of the Exchange in good standing since their inception, and have used all its facilities to the fullest extent, with one notable exception, when they, with almost fatal results, attempted to market their members' grain by other means without the protection it offers.

## BEATING THE BIG DRUM



The Winnipeg Free Press on December 4th, 1948 said editorially that twenty odd years ago when the Pools were being organized, a pamphlet of questions and answers on grain marketing was circulated and that later the President of one of the Pools admitted that he was one of the authors of the pamphlet and that he had learned from practical experience that ninety per cent of the material used was pure bunk.

The Free Press continues that this same organization is to-day asking the Government to abolish the free competitive market for grain and to compel the farmers to sell all their grain through the Government monopoly. The newspaper then suggests that, before lending their support to such a proposal, farmers should study it carefully and make sure they are not being treated to some more bunk.

Now Mr. Farmer, if what that president said twenty odd years ago was ninety per cent bunk, what percentage of what is said today is still bunk?

In view of many false impressions that have become rather widespread about the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, several will be dealt with in this broadcast.

The Grain Exchange does not itself BUY or SELL, handle, transport, store or process grain. It simply provides a meeting place where those who do all these things in connection with grain, transact their business with one another. The Exchange only records transactions, making available to the public the prices at which actual sales take place. The Exchange performs no commercial functions and pays no dividends. It is NOT a central organization of all grain interests. It neither defines nor directs the policy or operations of country elevators, millers, terminals, commission-men and brokers. Its membership includes country and terminal elevator operators, exporters, shippers, brokers, vessel owners, millers, feed manufacturers, co-operatives, pools, importers in foreign countries, and the Canadian Wheat Board.

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The members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange believe they have a part to play on behalf of all Western farmers in the Canadian and world markets which no other agency can adequately fill.

They are concerned about what may happen to Agriculture in the future, if the setting of prices for grain and farm products becomes a tag of war between our Government and governments abroad, with producers helpless pawns of Ottawa, with no appeal to market price, and without the right to sell to any buyer other than the Government agency. There are indications that this is more than a possibility.

Farmers should be on guard against any such invasion of their civil rights, invasions made in the name of security or stabilization — and sponsored by those who claim to be champions of the producer and who seek further power or political advantage.

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The Socialist Government of Britain has just introduced a Bill authorizing supervision of farming, which will give Food and Agriculture Ministers wide powers over farming. Technological and mechanical improvements in farming methods will be offered to the farmer, but should he refuse to abide by the Government's directions, power is given to dispossess him of his home and land.

At Spalding, Lincolnshire, James Ralph Bishop is reported to have been jailed for four months and fined fifteen hundred pounds (about \$6000.00) for sowing six acres to canary seed when his permit allowed him to sow only half an acre.

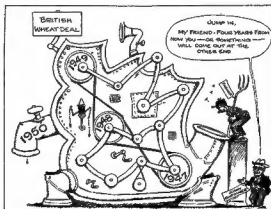
While fines have been paid by farmers in Canada, no one has yet been sentenced to a jail term, but many dictatorial powers are now, by Order-in-Council, available for use by the Government agency.

A short time ago a considerable quantity of barley was sold to Britain at \$2.00 per bushel. This barley price makes the wheat price under the Wheat Agreement with the same customer look rather bad, doesn't it? You remember the wheat price—\$1.55 per bushel—about 70c under the Wheat Board's quoted price to countries other than Britain.

Normally, barley is seldom sold at a price equal to that of wheat—pound for pound; but this barley sale was at a price—pound for pound—almost double that of the wheat sold by agreement to the United Kingdom.

You are told that present losses on wheat will be made up to you later on. Many people are not so optimistic, for deals of Foreign Offices throughout the world are cluttered with treaties and contracts which Governments have been unable to honor when they found the terms too hard on their own people to keep.

## THE GREAT INVENTION



The Selkirk Record has printed an article written by a successful farmer of that district. We quote it in part: "By the time this Wheat Agreement has run its course, if it does, the wheat market will have reached the pre-war level of stagnation and closed markets, Canada having unnecessarily led the way in disregarding the appeal and hope of other nations for international co-operation in expansion of world trade." The article continues: "the farmer has been in the same sorry mess of misunderstanding, entanglements and strife with the sale of his wheat ever since he took from private enterprise the responsibility of marketing his produce. He turned it over to a group of theorists who earn a good living by advocating Government control of everything, government by subsidy or group action through the State. What was a crime for private enterprise is now their lofty virtue."

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Some years ago considerable publicity was given to what was then called a "Fire Sale" in wheat, conducted on behalf of the Government by Mr. J. R. Murray, who was then in charge of stabilization measures.

Mr. Murray sold the surplus that was then weighing on the market, but, at the world market price. Today, in contrast, we find a sale at a price seventy cents under world values, not a surplus but a good share of our production for the next four years.

Mr. McIvor, Chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board, said at Calgary recently: "No one knows what lies ahead in the field of wheat prices." But Ottawa preferred to gamble in wheat, to sell short six hundred million bushels, to gamble with the farmer's product. So far, these gamblers in Ottawa and the farmers appear to have lost.

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The members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange are conscious of those who rave against a marketing system which they have neither studied nor tried to understand, and we cannot escape the clamour against a business which will not surrender itself to a form of State control.

It is strangely significant that the advocates of an agricultural utopia, guaranteed markets, stabilized prices, government monopolies, find it necessary to destroy the present channels of marketing for farm products.

Why?

Because these have to be closed before the planners can impose their false doctrines. That is the real reason why we of the Exchange have been accused of lack of co-operation when we rise to criticize these monopolistic and bureaucratic methods which are proposed by those who would make over this Free Enterprise system, a system under which neither government monopoly nor private monopoly has a place.



There is a peculiar belief among some people that when grain prices are moving upward it is because of some inseparable virtue in the grain, while when prices are falling it is because of inherent vice in those who bid low prices for the grain. It has always been when prices are falling that the free competitive market has been abused and criticized.

That market, represented in Canada by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, can only reflect and report the prices people consider grain to be worth at the moment and in days ahead. Blaming the market for low prices is like accusing the thermometer of causing cold weather.

In Canada, the only occasions when the operations of the Exchange have been suspended by the Government were when prices were on the way up — suspended to the detriment of the farmer and on behalf of the consumer.

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The Minister of Agriculture has made much of his claim that the Wheat Agreement with Britain is a commercial transaction and not a bilateral agreement in restraint of trade.

Members of the Exchange are completely in disagreement with his opinion, for no commercial transaction in grain is based upon compulsion as is the wheat agreement. In a commercial transaction the price of wheat can go higher after a contract is made—to the benefit of producers—while under Mr. Gardiner's agreement with Britain not only does our Government agree to deliver at a low price (having regard to the higher world price) but our farmers are forced to accept and deliver at that price or lower.

You, Mr. Farmer, are getting that lower price.

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Disciples of government monopoly in grain marketing are fond of quoting the precedent of Joseph, Pharaoh's Prime Minister of Egypt.

You remember the story. In short, Joseph set up a government granary, filling it during the seven plentiful years, doling out the grain during seven years of dearth and famine, and saving his people from starvation and want.

However, these disciples of State trading omit to tell the whole story of what happened to the Egyptian farmer. The end of the first famine year, according to Genesis Forty-seven, found the Government in possession of all the money in Egypt; the second year, all horses, cattle and herds had been exchanged for grain. The next step was the acquisition by Pharaoh of all the land. Finally the farmers were allowed to remain on Pharaoh's farms, and in return for seed paid him one-fifth of all their produce.

Staves.

One of the co-operative organizations in a radio broadcast a short while ago said that the farmer's main complaint against the open market system was that it could give no guarantee of a floor price.

The suggestion to the Government that a guaranteed minimum or floor price should be established came from members of the Grain Exchange and was incorporated in the 1935 Wheat Board Act, covering all wheat grown each year.

This broadcast, referring to the present \$1.35 guarantee until 1950, stated: "That guarantee is not for all the wheat farmers can grow, but for the volume for which there are markets available."

Did you know this? In other words, a guarantee with an escape clause. This threatens acreage and delivery control, with the farmer holding the bag on the surplus.

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The Wheat Agreement price of \$1.55 is about 70c under the Wheat Board's quoted price to countries other than Britain.

But your cheque, Mr. Farmer, is based upon \$1.35 at Fort William. This means that on each 2,000 bushels you haul to elevators you receive eighteen hundred dollars less than you would if you were allowed to sell at the market.

Planners of so-called stabilization wishfully hope that this amount will be made up later.

However, no matter how much you want to sell your wheat elsewhere, you cannot. Complete government-controlled marketing continues, at bargain prices for someone because of the wheat agreement.

Exchange members believe you are quite capable of planning your own security, especially when on 2,000 bushels you would have about eighteen hundred dollars of a stabilization fund of your own to start with.

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The Minister of Agriculture, speaking at Edmonton, is reported to have said that he could not understand the widespread opposition to the British wheat agreement, and referring to similar contracts made during the war with other farm products complained that no one objected then, while now the people suddenly say that everything about the wheat contract is wrong.

Of course there is widespread opposition. Why not?

The war is over. No matter how much it hurt, Canadians during the war objected to nothing which might contribute to the war effort.

But now the time for sacrifice is also over. The farmer has sacrificed enough. It should now be his right to take advantage of the same world market prices his American neighbor gets, which manufacturing industries obtain, but which the Canadian farmer is denied because of the wheat agreement.

## TOPSYTURVY TRADING



Much has been said about the lack of wheat and flour in Britain. No doubt Canada's failure to make scheduled delivery of its wheat agreement commitments has contributed to this condition.

To encourage maximum delivery in Britain, the January price to farmers for milling wheat has been raised about 11c and potentially millable wheat about 27c per bushel.

In France, farmers are demanding restoration of premiums for prompt delivery.

By paying premiums these Governments frankly admit failure to stabilize prices. Premiums are a recognition of the incentive of price. But what the free competitive market did supremely well through daily price alterations in relation to supply and demand is now done arbitrarily and inefficiently by Government bureaucrats.

In Canada you, Mr. Farmer, cannot get a premium. No, you get a discount of seventy to ninety cents under world prices.

Our previous broadcast told of the premiums offered by the British Food Ministry to the farmer for prompt delivery of his wheat.

A press despatch stated that this is the first country to offer farmers a bonus and other countries may have to follow that lead.

The despatch continued that the tendency is for farmers everywhere to deliver their coarse grain crop at high prices and feed wheat to livestock or hold it for higher prices.

Alas for Canadian farmers—this cannot happen here.

You, Mr. Farmer, can do neither — you cannot get a price anywhere near world values for your coarse grains, because the price is restricted to help the Minister of Agriculture fill his meat contracts—nor can you hope to get today's higher world price for your wheat because of Mr. Gardiner's four year speculation by means of the wheat agreement.

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It was strange listening on January 20th to hear Mr. McConnell of the Manitoba Pool Elevators offer the program of abundant food of high nutritional value as one of the fundamentals of the International Federation of Producers and then have him favor commodity agreements as the marketing method to achieve this laudable objective, when it is well known that commodity agreements have exactly the opposite effect.

Such agreements have always resulted in restriction of production and curtailment of competitive buying.

It would seem that there is considerable confusion of mind as to the object to be achieved by the wheat and other agreements which the Government has made.

Maybe we are wrong, but Exchange members have had the idea that the marketing function is to sell off the wheat produced from the acreage necessary for our farmers to make a living, and at the highest possible price.

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The method of marketing wheat has materially changed since it became a Government monopoly in 1943.

Previously the policy of the Government was that Canada's wheat should be sold at the best possible price. After September, 1943, the policy was changed with the Government assuming absolute responsibility for price and sale conditions, thus creating a complete Government monopoly.

Monopoly, that's it. Monopoly — one of the fundamentals for which organized agriculture has no place in its program, according to Mr. McConnell of the Manitoba Pool in his broadcast remarks on the National Farm Radio Forum on January 20th, 1947.

The present Government policy is complete Monopoly. If you, Mr. Farmer, doubt this, try to sell your wheat at the world market price or to some one other than the Government.

An illuminating editorial in the London Times of December 16th says in speaking of Anglo-Danish trade, "It is complained that while Britain keeps the prices of food purchases down by collective buying, there is no similar force keeping down the price of British exports of manufactured goods."

Canadians are well aware of this, for we have had the experience of their collective buying keeping the price of our wheat down about seventy cents under what other countries are willing to pay

You, Mr. Farmer, should know, for you are feeling the full force of this, and at a further discount of 20c, making your contribution 90c. You get 20c less than the wheat agreement price.

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Our President, speaking on the Farm Radio Forum programme January 20th, said that commodity agreements, with their restriction upon production and curtailment of competitive buying, with controls over every detail of the farmer's life which inevitably follow, cannot benefit agriculture.

He favored protection against low prices for farmers by means of a floor price, which ensures that the price received would never be lower than the floor price, and the farmer would receive higher prices when world factors of supply and demand warranted them.

Since floor prices had already been guaranteed, there neither was, nor is, any need for wheat agreements to give the farmer security. He already had it.

Now he loses Ninety cents on every bushel of this year's crop; how much next year time will tell.

Dr. Schultz of Chicago University, summing up the programme, stated that commodity agreements are not the answer.

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There has been much hue and cry against what has been called the speculative marketing system. It should be noted that seldom is this criticism of speculation heard in a period of steadily rising prices. When prices are moving downward you hear the outcry against the short seller.

Speaking of speculation and short selling, the Minister of Agriculture is loud in defense of the largest short sale in history, the greatest speculation of all time, at a price lower than world values, and not for next month or next spring, but for four years—in the name of stabilization.

You, Mr. Farmer, not the taxpayer, or the Minister, you are paying for that stabilization yourself, for, had you been permitted to sell your own wheat to whom you chose, at the market, you would have had ninety cents per bushel more than you now receive — quite a generous margin with which to carry your own risk.

The President of the National Council of Farm Co-operatives of the United States told their Convention, representing two million members, that he strongly favors the return of independent marketing and production on the grounds that intelligent agriculture can best utilize the land, and that production quotas and controls will do more harm than good for the farmer.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson in a news despatch says he could not see why American farmers should reduce production in advance, on the assumption that the United States cannot hold reasonable export markets. He also emphasized the importance of encouraging foreign trade.

How different the Canadian outlook, with the Minister of Agriculture asking for decreased wheat acreage, and self-styled farm leaders calling for continued controls and bargain priced wheat agreements.

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An interesting discussion on the Citizen's Forum on January 14th, 1947, brought out a comparison between the prices for farm products in the United States and Canada. Using a base of 100 as the price level of October, 1928, the United States figure of last October was 165, while the Canadian figure for the same date was 112.8. In other words, as one commentator put it, the cost of living in Canada had been kept down and the bill sent to the farmer.

The Western farmer seems to have many bills sent to him, bills for other citizens's account. The farmer subsidizes bread to Canadian consumers—wheat, bacon and beef to Britain. He subsidizes other industries to allow them to sell to Britain, and subsidizes the hog feeder in Eastern Canada by accepting low prices for his feed grains.

That will continue unless the farmer protests to his representative at Ottawa.

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The ramifications of the wheat agreement are coming to light.

The Ottawa Citizen's London correspondent, Basil Dean, on December 17th said that the wheat agreement by guaranteeing Britain 160 million bushels annually at \$1.55, instead of the world price of over \$2.60, had made it possible for the British Government to purchase large quantities of other Canadian commodities.

Again agriculture pays the 'shot' for other Canadian industries selling to Britain.

How differently does our preferred customer act in connection with the products she has for sale. For instance, the price of cocoa has risen over 200% in three months, from seven cents to twenty-seven cents per pound. There are no preferred customers in Britain's cocoa sales policy, such as Canada has with her wheat monopoly. They, the British, are getting the full price.

The export of barley is almost completely prohibited in order that hogs may be raised to sell at a price cheap enough to fill Mr. Gardiner's low priced bacon sales to Britain.

The last export barley sale was in December to Britain at \$2.20 Atlantic seaboard, about \$2.00 Fort William.

The Government's plans for retaining the British bacon market are requiring further sacrifices on the part of the barley grower. The hog feeder being supplied with cheap barley makes no sacrifice, but gets a nice profit.

No, Mr. Barley Grower, you make the sacrifice and will continue to do so if legislation now pending is passed during the present session at Ottawa.

All this is unnecessary. The Minister of Agriculture should stick to legislating and cease trying to be a salesman. It takes no great shakes of a salesman to sell below the market.

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'Tis strange how a person's past utterances catch up with him.

We see today people acclaiming the wheat agreement with Britain at a price about two-thirds of world values, who in the 30's were very vocal against the Grain Exchange method of marketing, and in criticism burst into print then with remarks such as these clipped from a newspaper of January 5th, 1933, and credited to an official of the Saskatchewan Pool. "It can hardly be called marketing to give away a high class product for next to nothing".

How apt is the application of this comment today when we find 160 million bushels being disposed of (we almost said sold)—certainly at a give-away price.

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### THE GREAT WHEAT JUGGLERS



It is apparent that opponents of free competitive markets are pressing for permanent Government monopoly in grain. Prices will be set by bureaucrats and the producer will have no recourse but to do as he is told, as must follow monopolistic policies.

The Winnipeg Free Press in December, dealing editorially with the question of marketing, said in part: "The only proper price for wheat is the price the world will pay. The only means the world has of telling the growers how much it wants is by the price it offers. The only means we have of knowing what price the world will pay is the free market operating through Grain Exchanges".

Any benefits of stabilization may have to be paid for in regimented production and thus in loss of freedom.

Your freedom, Mr. Farmer, is in deadly danger right now.

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Mr Farmer, we have told you of the adverse effect Government in business has had on the price of wheat. Here, Mr. Farmer, is the effect that Government in business has had on prices of livestock. Following is a comparison of the prices at St. Paul and Winnipeg on February 7th, 1947.

|                  |          |                      |      |                      |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|------|----------------------|
| Good Steers      | St. Paul | Price—\$19. to \$25. | Wpg. | Price \$13. to \$15. |
| Good Heifers     | " "      | " —\$20.00           | " "  | \$13. to \$14.       |
| Good Cows        | " "      | " \$12. to \$15.     | " "  | \$10. to \$11.       |
| Good Veal Calves | " "      | " —\$20. to \$27.    | " "  | \$16. to \$16.50     |
|                  |          | (Basis Live Weight)  |      | (Basis Live Weight)  |
| Class "A" Hogs   | " "      | " —\$25.00           | " "  | \$16.50              |

Is not this wide spread in prices caused by the necessity of you, Mr Farmer, being called upon to fulfil Mr. Gardiner's short-sale meat contracts?

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Prime Minister King in an address to The National Liberal Federation in convention at Ottawa, speaking of Miss Barbara Ann Scott of that city, winner of the World Figure Skating Championship, said.

"Do you believe that this young lady would have reached where she has today under a system of regimentation? Would she have developed talent, the initiative, the desire to perfect herself under a system in which everyone is subject to control?"

It would be wise for members of Parliament at Ottawa who plan continued controls over agriculture to pay heed to the Prime Minister's sentiments.

If war-time regimentation of agriculture continues into peace-time with its control over deliveries and price, then the farmer will be compelled to buy in a free market with no ceiling, and forced to sell his products at a restricted price.



In any argument with opponents of free competitive markets sooner or later this question arises, "What about the low wheat price of the 'thirties'?", inferring that the Grain Exchange had brought about that situation.

Prior to 1923, before planners became active, the lowest price for One Northern Wheat basis Fort William was 78c per bushel, the high \$3.00 per bushel.

From that year, when Mr. Sapiro mesmerized his audiences, what happened? Apparently in the 'thirties' marketing methods had little to do with low prices, for in spite of, or maybe because of control claimed by the Pools over more than half the crop, a new low appeared, 39½c. per bushel. Significant isn't it? How then can the farmer expect improvement in his lot now with planners trying out yet another experiment on him?

From the "Hungry Thirties" to the "Foolish Forties".

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Spokesmen for the Exchange have stressed that the wheat agreement is a bad bargain for the farmer. Not only does it restrict his operations, but it restricts sales to other countries who have been customers for years. It is possible and highly probable that these customers will not forget, in less critical times, Canada's failure to supply their requirements now, even at higher prices, because of the low-priced sale to Britain.

Has the gift to Britain (of at least 70c per bushel this year) secured for us that market beyond the contract period? We think not. Sir Andrew Jones rather confirmed this opinion lately when he said that three factors might influence the future.

- (1) The agricultural policy of Britain.
- (2) Britain's ability to pay in Canadian dollars.
- (3) The competitive strength of other supplying nations.

thus forecasting a return to Britain's custom of buying wheat in the cheapest market.

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Mr. David Lilienthal, Chairman of The United States Atomic Energy Commission, said in Washington February 5th that he believes in the fundamental proposition of the individual and that all government and private institutions must be designed to promote and protect and defend the integrity and dignity of the individual.

He went on to say that any government or institution which exalts the state above the importance of man, which places arbitrary power over man as a fundamental tenet of government is contrary to all concepts of democracy.

Too bad this was not spoken in our own House of Commons where power is sought to continue to deprive every farmer of his rights as an individual. If the State continues its war-time control over his planting, his deliveries and his marketing, a complete State monopoly is thereby created.

Mr. Farmer, how would you dispose of your machinery and other farm chattels if you intended to leave your farm? Your answer—by auction sale. If so, would it not be to your advantage to induce as many potential buyers as possible to attend?

What would happen to your sale if there were reserve bids? The answer—fewer buyers at the sale.

Well—that is just the problem that faces you under present Government planning for wheat marketing.

The Grain Exchange has always been one of the world's great auction markets.—No reserve bids—No special concessions to anyone.—All buyers had representatives present all the time— with grain merchants active all over the world interesting importers in our quality product.

Now under State Monopoly only one sales agency — with special concessions or reserve conditions for special buyers. — Result — Buyers look elsewhere for their supplies. Think it over!

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"If he can show me a way of getting wheat cheaper I would be glad" said John Strachey in the British House of Commons recently. This was his reply when asked by an opposition member if wheat could not be bought cheaper than One Hundred and Twenty Dollars per ton, the price now being paid to Argentina for wheat. One Hundred and Twenty Dollars per ton. More than Three Dollars and Twenty cents per bushel.

You, Mr. Farmer, are getting One Dollar thirty-five, as a result of a sale by the Government of Canada at about half what Argentina is receiving, and to the same customer. That's Government control for you.

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The President of the Manitoba Pool Elevators, speaking to the Kiwanis Club in Winnipeg, suggested international co-operation with the setting of floor and ceiling prices making allowance for some fluctuation encouraging choice of action.

These are strange words from this source when we are told he favors present Government control, which neither encourages nor permits any choice of action on the part of any farmer in Western Canada. Surely the speaker has not been converted by what we have been saying, for we of the Exchange can go the full distance with him, that the farmer should have absolute choice of action in planting, delivering and selling his products.

The President of Manitoba Pool Elevators speaking in Winnipeg said that in spite of some people writing articles and making speeches to make farmers discontented, few farmers are dissatisfied with present price conditions.

The President of the Ontario Agricultural Council, Mr. Charles H. Hooper, seems to hold a somewhat different opinion for in Toronto lately he said that of two hundred and fifty young men who went overseas from York County not one of them would return to farming.

He went on to say -

"I think we have been selling agriculture a little too cheap. Farmers have been shipping a little here, and losing security in comparison to the United States."

Are the veterans returning to the farm in your community?

Mr. Hooper said a little too cheap. It would seem to us to be a lot too cheap (at least ninety cents per bushel too cheap).

The Honourable Mr. Gardiner has stated that the sales of wheat during the four year period of the Anglo-Canadian Agreement are to be pooled so as to guarantee the price of \$1.35 for these years even if, in the meantime, world wheat prices fall. Through this method, he claimed the farmers are to receive a stabilized price.

What Mr Gardiner did not say was that the Government, as its action indicated, believed that during the existence of the Agreement prices would fall and that events would prove the wisdom of the Government in entering into this Agreement.

The Government denies the farmer the right to deliver his wheat to anyone else but the Government, and if the Government's estimate of the future price action is wrong (as it has been so far) and prices go up, the farmer is the loser and the taxpayer is not called upon to make up the loss in the Government's short sale.

### QUEER SALESMANSHIP



Mr. Norman Jaques, Member for Wetaskiwin, speaking in the House of Commons on February 25th said in part.

"To my mind the most priceless privilege the farmers of Canada enjoy is that of owning and controlling their farms. It is that privilege which I see is endangered from the ever-increasing controls, first from those which are national in scope, and now, with even more danger, from those which are international.

In comparing the system of open markets with the grain board method of marketing, I think one aspect has not been touched upon by any previous speaker, the matter of distribution. Which method ensures the better and widest and fairest distribution of grain? I know it can be argued both ways, but I would point out that it is only since these controls have been enforced that we have had food famines. There never was any widespread famine in the world that I can remember until free marketing came under arbitrary control."



We hear a lot these days about fluctuations which are all ascribed to the existence of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and which are roundly condemned by opponents of the open market system and the profit motive.

And yet the prices of Class Two Wheat arbitrarily set by the Wheat Board have at times fluctuated just as they do in an open market.

For example, between the 15th of February and the 5th of March, the Wheat Board's prices on Class Two Wheat were as follows:

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2.51 | 2.53 | 2.53 | 2.59 | 2.74 | 2.72 | 2.68 | 2.74 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

Twice the fluctuations were six cents and once fifteen cents, and in these eight days the advance was 23 cents.

We are not criticising the prices but don't you think this swiping at price fluctuations has gone far enough?

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Do you realize that the revised Wheat Board Act distinctly states that the Wheat Board is now the agent of the government? We have always maintained, and the Board has claimed, that it was acting for the farmers of Western Canada, and that its duty was to do the very best it could for these farmers.

Now, the Board is subject to the orders of the Government. It was the Government, not the Board, that engineered this four year contract with the United Kingdom at prices much below what we feel the Board could reasonably be expected to secure for you in these years.

In other words you farmers are the servants of the Government, and you have lost your native right as free men to do the best for yourself that you can.

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Mr. Strachey, Minister of Food in the United Kingdom, spoke recently before the Canadian Club in Winnipeg. The Free Press commenting on his speech stated in part as follows. "While Mr. Strachey was speaking here outside of the terms of the wheat agreement his meaning was clear enough. If Canada, at a time of scarcity and high wheat prices, sold wheat as is being done under the wheat agreement at less than the world market the United Kingdom would respond by paying higher than world prices at a future time when reverse conditions exist."

Note how different was his statement in the British House of Commons on December 11th, 1946, when he said.

"We buy agricultural products at the lowest price we can get them in the world, and if we deviated from that policy I am sure the house would censure us severely indeed."

We leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Newspapers everywhere are carrying the story that dwindling supplies of Canadian wheat and urgent demand are responsible for the price of wheat which has reached the three dollar mark.

Farmers who believe in free competitive markets recognize this price as the inevitable result of the functioning of the law of supply and demand—a law which has been sneered at as obsolete and old-fashioned by planners who claim to speak for the farmer. This law which is so old-fashioned as to be fundamental will continue to operate despite long-term agreements, government control, government monopoly or agitators or theorists.

Countries, other than Britain, are clamoring for Canadian wheat at more than twice the price you are now receiving. They are unable to buy because the larger part of our yearly export surplus has been speculatively sold ahead at one dollar fifty five — to give you security and stability — *Stability at the bottom.*

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Time Magazine of New York in the March tenth issue has this to say about the new Wheat Board Legislation:

"The new Bill would make the Wheat Board the world's largest trader in wheat. Buyers both inside and outside Canada could deal only with the Board. Canadian farmers could sell only to the Board at its price. No railway or elevator could receive wheat without a Board permit. The Board could even suspend the farmer's right to ship grain. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture announced they were one hundred per cent behind the Bill."

Yes, Mr. Farmer, it would seem that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Government doubt your ability to plan your own savings and until 1950 propose to do it for you for your own so-called good, by compulsion of course, whether you like it or not.

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Noxious weeds were the subject of debate in the Manitoba Legislature on Monday March 3, 1947.

All farmers are interested in this subject, for the eradication of these weeds from their fields has occupied their time and effort for many years.

The debate brought out the interesting fact that Wild Mustard has been saleable at a price equal to that now being paid Canadian farmers for One Northern Wheat — 2½¢ per pound or \$1.25¢ per bushel of sixty pounds — the price set, until 1950 by the Government, to be paid the farmer for his best wheat — while a noxious weed commands the same price in a free market.

"O Stabilization, what crimes are committed in thy name."

For many years the Winnipeg Grain Exchange has been criticized by opponents of open competitive markets and has been investigated by Royal Commissions, all of which FAILED to give comfort to critics of the Exchange. The verdict in every case has been to the effect that the Exchange performs useful and essential service in the handling of the grain crops of Western Canada, with distinct benefits to both producer and consumer.

The Exchange includes within its membership representatives of the producers whether they be co-operatives, pools, private elevator interests, individual grain growers who market their own grain, or the Canadian Wheat Board; also representatives of consumers, millers and users of cereal grains at home and abroad.

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Opponents of free competitive markets have been active in spreading the impression that Exchange members do not believe in and are opposed to a floor price for wheat. This quotation from a submission to a Parliamentary Committee in 1935 by a prominent member of the Exchange answers them:-

"I suggest that there be a minimum price for wheat which the Board would establish, so that the farmer could take advantage of it if he wished to. If the market was higher or the farmer thought it was going higher, he would have the opportunity of selling at a higher price. What I feel is that the stabilizing influence in the market could ensure them (the farmers) that it would never go below that price."

As in 1935, so in 1947 members of the Exchange hold that same opinion.

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Grain markets as they exist today were not a sudden or conscious invention of man. They have been evolved out of generations of experience. The rules, regulations and practices have been altered from time to time to meet changing conditions.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange is one of the most important of these markets. As an Exchange it is not engaged in marketing. It neither buys nor sell grain, nor has it any part itself in establishing prices. The Exchange merely provides a marketing place and supervision which insures fair and equitable practices—fair alike to its members and to the thousands of non-members, producers and consumers, who, directly or indirectly, use its facilities.

Marketing agencies publicly opposed to free competitive markets while using them to the fullest extent, are making veiled assertions about certain business interests anxious to dispense with the Wheat Board for the purpose of taking from the farmer the protection it affords.

It requires no stretch of the imagination to conclude that they are referring to The Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

These assertions, whether deliberate or not, are definitely misleading, for the Exchange has clearly stated the position of its members in that respect before and now does so again.

The members of the Exchange are in favor of a Canadian Wheat Board to administer the Floor Price, to pay that price as and when necessary, thus protecting the farmer against undue price depression—but they protest against the loss to the farmer of his inherent right to sell his grain elsewhere if he chooses.

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**"WORKS FOR THE GENERAL ADVANTAGE OF CANADA."** That's what Parliament, in the Canada Grain Act, declared Country and Terminal Elevators to be.

These were not originated, developed and constructed by Governments, or by people who want the State in business. State traders and those favoring Government Monopoly do not risk their own money for the benefit or advantage of Canada, the Canadian farmers, or anyone else.

It was the free enterprise of Elevator Companies, Grain Merchants, Shippers and Exporters, all members of The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, who originated and brought to present perfection the facilities for the storage and world-wide marketing of Canada's crops. Now, these advocates of State Trading want to continue Government Control and Monopoly indefinitely — which entails control of you, Mr. Farmer, the greatest of all free enterprises.

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When advocates of Government bulk trading and control reach the end of their defense of the Wheat Agreement and the complete control over the farmer's operations which inevitably follows, the Exchange is always made the 'whipping boy' for the low prices of the Thirties.

This has been the rallying cry of our opponents for years and is just as silly and as untrue as many of their theories.

Wheat prices were low, but who was responsible during this period for Eggs at 5c per dozen at country points — Steers and Bacon Hogs at \$3.00 — Potatoes at 75c per hundred pounds — Sugar at 5c — Hides and Onions at 1c — Butter at 18c — Halibut at 10c per pound?

"The exact opposite of the truth could not be stated with greater precision."



The British Agricultural Ministry on March 7th announced that the price to be paid to British farmers for their home grown wheat for next year's crop would be \$2.40. This price is \$1.05 more than is guaranteed to the Canadian farmer who is being paid \$1.35.

Any statement by agitators or others that Canadian wheat, after shipping charges are added, will cost Great Britain about the same price as British farmers are receiving is incorrect. Information tabled in the House of Commons at Ottawa a few days ago stated that the average price for our One Northern wheat delivered in Great Britain was approximately Two Dollars per bushel which is forty cents less than the British farmers will receive.

It must also be borne in mind that One Northern wheat is of higher milling quality than British grown wheat.

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A prominent British importer writes as follows:

"I am very sorry for your farmers. They have had a raw deal, not I think at the behest of the British Government but rather through the over-generosity of your Cabinet. At one period during the war the cost of fighting was running to some 13 millions a day, so what would an extra 10s or 20s a bushel have meant to us, and yet to the Canadian farmer it would have been a mighty good thing. He is in no better position now, and Chicago wheat is at its highest for the past twenty-seven years, and the Argentine dearer still. Of course a lot of water can flow under the bridges before our contract with Canada expires, but it is generally held that the labourer is worthy of his hire—this is a labour truism—and your farmers are worthy of more than they are getting for the current crop."

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Class Two wheat is wheat offered or sold by the Wheat Board to countries other than Great Britain. Early in the season offers of Class Two wheat were made at \$2.05. Since then the price has advanced as at March 10th, to \$2.90, which is \$1.55 above the sale price to Great Britain.

These high prices mean very little to you, as no sales of wheat for export to countries other than Great Britain have been made since the price passed the \$2.50 mark. There have been some sales to mills who have been selling limited quantities of flour to countries other than Great Britain.

Having made some sales in the early stages of the advance the Government soon found themselves getting behind schedule in their shipments to Great Britain and had to refuse to allow wheat in quantity to be sold to any country until they caught up on their contract to the United Kingdom. These present high prices are quoted by the Wheat Board because of the high prices ruling in other exporting countries, and do not add anything to your participation certificates until actual sales have been made.

On Monday, March 17, the Government announced a new price basis to be paid Western producers for oats and barley effective the following morning.

Since the beginning of the year in these Minute Broadcasts, the Winnipeg Grain Exchange has presented from time to time the difference that exists in prices between the Government monopolistic controlled price, and the prices where free and open markets are used.

Compare these prices.

The new Government controlled price of Malting Barley is 93 cents, plus 5 cents premium. The price of Malting Barley in Minneapolis on March 18th, was \$1.96 to \$2.03. — About one dollar over the Government price. The new Government controlled price of oats, basis One Feed, is 61½ cents. Similar grades of oats in Minneapolis on March 18th were worth 87 cents to 93 cents.

Another example of fixed price marketing to fill Government contracts.

#### A CLEAR CASE



Here are some effects of so-called stabilization in other producing countries.

In a special dispatch from Broomhall to the Winnipeg Free Press it was stated that Argentina is much concerned over the possibility of an agricultural depression as a result of the Government policy of setting prices so low as to destroy the incentive of the farmers to produce.

From Australia information has been cabled that the Government plans of wheat stabilization likely will be abandoned due to the lack of support by the States.

How long, in Canada, will the producer continue to accept Government fixed prices at so much below the world's price?

Why should the Western farmer be made the victim of socialistic experiments by politicians and theorists?

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Under Government price fixing, Government contract making and Government monopolistic control, will the Hog become extinct like the Buffalo?

Here are figures dealing with the decline in the hog population.

Hogs on farms in three Western Provinces were:-

in 1943 — 6,023,000

in 1944 — 4,300,000

in 1945 — 2,800,000

in 1946 — 2,300,000

a decline in 4 years of over 60%

It has always been a matter of great importance that our Western Agriculture should be widely diversified. Only free unrestricted markets will make it so.

There is no incentive to raise hogs in the West, when the Eastern hog-feeder receives a freight allowance, and a subsidy of 10c per bushel on oats, and 25c per bushel on barley.

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Propagandists and political agitators, and theorists, and others opposed to free marketing, seem to delight in accusing everyone else but themselves of exploitation. They roll the word around their tongues on every possible occasion. This Holier than Thou reiteration is really humorous when you realize that the present policies which they are backing so strenuously are resulting in the greatest case of exploitation ever applied against our farming industry. The producer's grain has been sold at millions of dollars less than its true value for no reason whatever except that the sponsors thought that prices would fall, and they would prove to be the wise men of the East.

Instead, prices have risen spectacularly, and Canada is supplying the British consumer at bargain prices. But it is the Western producer, and not all Canadians, who is paying the cost of this 'fire sale'.

The time will come when these propagandists will be seeking the shelter of their storm cellars, and drawing their cloaks of exploitation in after them.

Under the new Wheat Board Act you farmers are to be dictated to and told what to do with all your grain, and become the victims of exploitation and political expediency.

The government seems to be contract mad, for in addition to wheat, there are contracts for bacon, beef, and other farm products at bargain prices.

The bogey seems to be that the wheat movement might block the movement of coarse grains, and shut off feed grains from reaching the heavily subsidized Eastern hog feeder, or that coarse grains may interrupt the flow of wheat for Great Britain.

The government cannot force you to deliver your grain, but after delivery it is only wheat that is government property. They never will own coarse grains until they buy them, and they should not have any right to interfere with grain they do not own.

When grain moved without interference, there never was any shortage to meet all demands.

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We hear a lot about stabilized prices and the elimination of fluctuations, but even a government cannot prevent fluctuation. See what is happening to prices of Class Two wheat.

|                 |      |         |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| March 13—\$2.85 |      |         |
| " 13—\$2.94     | up   | 9 cents |
| " 14—\$2.97     | "    | 3 "     |
| " 15—\$3.01     | "    | 4 "     |
| " 17 —\$3.10    | "    | 9 "     |
| " 18—\$2.97     | down | 13 "    |
| " 19—\$2.87     | "    | 10 "    |

But how do you think your customers in sixty countries are feeling about these prices when one customer is getting wheat at \$1.55? And what is likely to be their attitude when this Anglo-Canadian contract is out of the way, and all wheat exporting countries are offering wheat at world market prices? If you were a buyer in one of these countries would you not be inclined to give the breaks to the other exporting countries who did their best to keep you supplied when Canada could not help you because of this sale to Great Britain?

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Professional propagandists and self styled farm leaders have attacked the wheat futures market as being responsible for the low prices of wheat during the early 1930's. This is untrue and most of those making such statements know it to be so.

The Free Press of March 28th, 1947, says -

"To blame the wheat Futures Market for the prices of the 1930's is like blaming a thermometer for the weather. You may destroy the thermometer, but the weather continues as before. The price reflected conditions as they existed in the world market."

As we have stated before in these broadcasts, the Grain Exchange does not itself buy or sell grain. It simply provides a meeting place for those who do to transact their business with one another.



The British started with controlling the prices of their products—to begin that control they regulated production — to make regulating effective they eliminated the farmer's right to appeal to the courts. The first result is the end of wage protection for the individual.

Present example: controlling representation which leads to arbitrary rule by tyrants. This is British experience.

It is said "It never happens here." But it has already happened—if you don't believe, I read the amended Wheat Board Act just passed by the House of Commons at Ottawa.

Your wheat price is controlled, your production is regulated, your right to sue is subject to British provisions. Yes, it has happened here.

Remember—no appeal out of the nation—ending the farmer's liberty.

The Government says "If we make a mistake you suffer; if you make a mistake we punish you for it."

Is this what you want?

Acting upon the demand of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Wheat Pools, who claim to speak for you, Mr Farmer, the Government proposes to continue its complete control of wheat marketing, compelling you to carry out a bad deal with Britain, at a price just under half present world values.

Further powers are also proposed, giving the Minister of Agriculture power to control the sale of other agricultural products to fill other forward commitments at low prices, and to make further agreements without your consent.

Truly the sun is setting upon your liberty.

Do you want farm product prices fixed by Government Boards, Boards appointed by the Government, and responsible to a Parliament in which your representatives are bound to be in the minority?

Do you really want prices to be a political issue in Canada?

Think it over!

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It is our belief that government price-fixing and government contract making with its monopolistic control, will surely result in lowered production and inadequate distribution. In support of this opinion the Corn Trade News of February 25th, 1947, says:-

"How often have we spoken of the danger of these government-to-government bulk contracts, and of the two-price system to which they give rise? If wheat growers in Argentina, Australia and Canada had received the inflated prices which importers have been asked to pay for wheat, the supply position today would be much easier than it is. The constitution of the pre-war market brought the farmer in touch with the consumer and it provided adequate marketing and productive incentives at the time and place they were needed. The danger is not that in future years the world will be over-produced with wheat — rather it is that by a slavish devotion to price stabilisation, farmers will lack the encouragement to meet the world's needs."

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"Canada wants people who rely on themselves rather than on governments" say Canadian Immigration officials in London as hundreds of would-be settlers, hoping for subsidised passages to Canada, turn hopelessly away.

Surely these officials cannot be in touch with happenings at home where legislation in the form of the Wheat Board Act forces Canadian farmers to rely completely upon the Government in the marketing of wheat, legislation which takes from producers all sense of self-reliance. The farmer must now rely upon the whim of a Government department as to price, as to what acreage he shall sow, and as to the quantity per acre he may deliver. All in the name of Stability, a catch word coined by demagogues to bolster a weak cause.

Stability at the bottom.

The fear complex upon which today's marketing legislation is grounded may be traced to propaganda directed against free marketing agencies—propaganda apparently successful in persuading many producers that their difficulties in the dark days of the "Thirties" were attributable to the failure of free enterprise and free markets.

Representations that that period demonstrated free markets at their best, and that a recurrence of those conditions must be expected, are deliberate distortions of fact.

The "Thirties" were marked by almost complete restriction of trade—Governmental interference, bonuses, tariffs, quotas, bi-lateral deals (similar to the British Wheat Agreement), and every other device were relied upon to make importation of wheat unnecessary—our customers overseas placed Government made barriers to the purchase of Canadian wheat.

The way to prevent return of conditions of the "Thirties" is by expanding the market — not by restricting it.

The present Wheat Board Act forecasts this return — and is a surrender to fear

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The letter from Mr. Quesdahl, of Elrose, Saskatchewan, to the Western Producer, printed on March 20, 1947, titled "Too Mild" was indeed an interesting letter.

Of course the language of the "Producer" and the officials referred to, must of necessity be mild, for they are defending a bad policy. When our prophecies become accomplished facts these people will be even milder, for their squirmings are already becoming evident. Some of their spokesmen in Parliament are now beginning to hedge on their endorsement of the British wheat deal, and the legislation deemed necessary to its fulfilment.

Will they continue to lead our farmers down the bottom of the garden where the dollar thirty-five wheat grows—while the world market continues to pay at least a dollar more?

We agree with Mr. Quesdahl, that its nice to be a good fellow when one does not have to pay.

We suggest you read this letter in the "Producer", March 20, 1947.

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"The Government bets its Shirt" is the title of a story in MacLean's Magazine about Parliament's action in amending the Wheat Board Act, which finally committed the Government to a gigantic political gamble.

Continuing, the article states that the Government has bet Two hundred million dollars and the next election, that there will be a severe decline in wheat prices by 1949.

Most Westerners hope for high prices, but it would seem that the Minister of Agriculture expects that the bottom will fall out of the market, and that ultimately his deal with Britain will not look as bad as it does at the present time.

We, of the Exchange, do not like this sort of guess-work. We think the deal was, is, and will be a bad one, and that it's your shirt, Mr. Farmer, that is being wagered, not the Government's.

### **Know The Facts—**

Nine years ago, Mr. Justice Turgeon handed to the Government his report of an exhaustive investigation of the whole Grain Industry, with particular reference to measures necessary to retain and extend world marketing of Canadian wheat.

Should not now its words of wisdom be given consideration?

Hundreds of witnesses, every shade of opinion, volunteered advice and warnings for the future, but war intervened and the report was pigeon-holed.

Why? The course of present action, State trading, is directly opposite to that suggested by Mr. Justice Turgeon. Past errors have been, and continue to be, repeated. Evil results which accrued from mistaken policies of the "twenties" and "thirties" and the research and deliberations of this Commission are today being completely ignored.

Our present course is wrong, agriculture will suffer further injury.

Read the Turgeon report. A copy is yours on request. Write to The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, Winnipeg.

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A recent survey published by the New York Times indicated a world wide trend away from Free Enterprise toward Socialism and Communism.

The standard of living remains highest in countries where competition, the essential characteristic of Free Enterprise, is least restricted, while living standards have steadily deteriorated in countries where State Monopoly has replaced Competition and Free Enterprise.

Canadians should be concerned lest efforts of overseas governments, through restrictive bi-lateral deals, may kill the competitive market system here, as has happened overseas.

Time magazine commenting on our Wheat Board legislation, said: "Canada's Government which has been pushed steadily left by the socialistic C.C.F., went the whole way in control of wheat."

Yes, Canada has joined the ranks of countries subscribing to the starvation program of State Control. Farm Organisations demanded it.

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From the pages of the Herald, Grand Forks, North Dakota, we read - "We (the United States) are badly in need of good malting barley and we have to grow our own. Canadian prairie provinces raise malting barley, producing one hundred and fifty million bushels annually—but because of complications (listeners please note the word complications), because of complications are not allowed to send their product over the border"

Quite right—not allowed—not since control of agriculture and exports was taken by the Government. Canada once had a growing market for barley in the United States, a market which took over One Hundred and Ten Million bushels since 1941 — but — Complications — another word for Government interference — almost entirely closed this market to Canadian malting barley producers.

The Herald urges American farmers to make up the shortage. If they do, this premium market for Canadian barley is forever lost to you.



On March 31, 1947 the following statement was made on behalf of the Alberta Pool:-

"The objective of the Co-operatives is to restore to the people the control of their own economic lives. The trend for years has been toward monopoly, with control in the hands of comparatively few people. Co-operatives have a great task ahead of them in convincing people that they should work out their own economic destiny."

This broadcast occurred just eighteen days after the Government of Canada legislated away from farmers all control of their economic lives and created an all-embracing State monopoly in wheat. Thus the economic destiny of every farmer is no longer to be worked out by himself, but is at the mercy of a Government department.

The horrible truth is that Cooperative leaders advised—Nay—pressed the Government to take this fateful step — all in the name of Stability. Economic slavery — the price of Stability.

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#### What price Stability?

Bill 23, the Wheat Board Act will, unless Canadians awaken, be pointed out as the first step in the socialization of Canadian industry. The first industry to be taken over by the State is agriculture, from farm to consumer.

Controls have been placed upon the production, use, transportation, storage, marketing and price of wheat.

Nothing can be done from field to the table without authority from the Government's Wheat Board, no longer the agent of the farmer, but a department of Government.

For any infraction of the rules and regulations by farmers or others, severe penalties are provided with authority to police officers to lift and hold producer's permit books for fifteen days. If convicted the farmer may be fined up to Five thousand dollars, and be jailed for a term up to two years.

Thus this Canadian rampart of freedom is being lost to the enemy, the totalitarian system, in the name of security and stability.

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In defense of the Wheat Board legislation it has been said that the farmer himself carries his own risk—and is satisfied with the guarantee of \$1.35 per bushel. In other words, it is contended that by means of the five year pooling arrangement he is providing his own guarantee, thus relieving other taxpayers from any risk of loss.

We have maintained that Canada's farmers have been unduly penalized since nineteen forty-three, from which time they have been deprived of the higher market prices obtainable and that they should now have the opportunity to recover at least part of the disproportionate share they have borne of the cost of price control.

We believe that agriculture is entitled to a guarantee from all citizens —for no commodity has contributed more than wheat to the national wealth and export trade of this country.

## LOSING THEIR WAY



The Canadian Wheat Board legislation confirming State trading in wheat brought out some interesting comment.

It was said that farm leaders were consulted before the British agreement was concluded. There is no one empowered to speak for all Canadian farmers still less to give away their property.

And, by the way, who are these professional organizers and spokesmen? Are they not those whose advice was accepted in the nineteen twenties and thirties? Were their views sound or disastrous then?

It is said that farmers are delighted with the deal and with this legislation. Who says so? The same organizers and spokesmen who advised in favour of the deal and must of necessity defend it.

The fact is that the farmer was not consulted either before or since the wheat agreement was signed — nor has he been given an opportunity to express his views at any time. Did anyone consult you?

In numerous instances in the past democracy, personal freedom, and private initiative have perished, not because dictatorship was imposed but because discouraged people voted themselves into virtual slavery when bad times made Government control look attractive.

This trend is in evidence in Canada where, not bad times today, but the memory of bad times in the thirties has brought about present State monopoly legislation in wheat and other agricultural products. — Complete Government control.

When the economic life of the farmer or any other citizen can be dictated by the Government, political freedom cannot exist even though the empty right to vote is retained. Liberty is lost when the government can interfere with or destroy the farmers' opportunity to make a living. The first step toward that condition is to eliminate competition, and that step has been taken.

**"THOSE WHO SLEEP ON THEIR LIBERTIES LOSE THEM."**

